



Small Unit Solar Shade ***(SUSS)***

Overview:

Combat Observation Lasing Teams know as COLTs and Special Forces Groups are positioned far forward to gather intelligence and identify targets. The teams are made up of dismounted soldiers back packing 1 to 3 days worth of supplies and equipment. They are extremely vulnerable to heat stress in the daytime, extreme temperature fluctuations in the evening and detection from visual movement, thermal and near infrared signature. The **Small Unit Solar Shade (SUSS)** will counter these threats by providing a standard system that improves soldier survivability, sustainability and performance. No item exists in the current inventory that performs this mission.

Description:

The SUSS family includes one-, two- and four-soldier solar covers that protect Forward Reconnaissance, Special Forces and Laser Targeting Teams from environmental and detection threats. Using a composite of different fibers, the SUSS reduces both near-infrared and thermal signature while providing protection from temperature extremes that occur during day and night operations. Currently the teams operate at dawn and dusk but not typically during the day to avoid detection. This break-through in concealment technology will enable teams to operate around the clock providing Battalion Commanders with a significant increase in reconnaissance information. Additionally, due to reduced heat stress, it is envisioned that the team's performance will be enhanced and water use cut. The SUSS concept was developed and assessed as part of the Partnering with a Field Unit initiative and small quantities are being fielded. Based on the success of early evaluations a formal program plan is under development.



Point of Contact:

Collective Protection Liaison
Phone: 508-233-4347

U.S. Army
Soldier and Biological
Chemical Command

Soldier Systems Center
Kansas Street
Natick, Massachusetts
01760
www.sbcom.army.mil

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